

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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USNMR SHAPE

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USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 3111

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: NAC MEETING JUNE 4; ASPECTS OF STANDARDIZATION IN
ACE MOBILE FORCE

BEGIN SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS PRESENTATION MADE BY
SHAPE TO THE NAC JUNE 4 UNDER AGENDA ITEM II, ASPECTS OF STANDARD-
IZATION IN THE ACE MOBILE FORCE. EXPECT SYG TO DRAW ON
PRESENTATION IN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AT JUNE MINISTERIAL,
AND THAT PRESENTATION WILL BE INCLUDED AS PART OF INTELLI-
GENCE BRIEFING FOR THE DECEMBER 1974 MINISTERIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. BRIEFING WAS INTRODUCED BY SHAPE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF
FOR LOGISTICS AND ARMAMENTS DIVISION (LT GEN VAN DER HEYDEN)
WHO WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE TRADITIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
ROADBLOCKS TO STANDARDIZATION DIRECTED THE ATTENTION OF
THE COUNCIL TO THE FACT THAT NONSTANDARDIZATION HAS CAUSED
SERIOUS OPERATIONAL CONSEQUENCES. HE IDENTIFIED THE ACE
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MOBILE FORCE (AMF) AS A NATO IN MINIATURE WHICH COULD IDEN-
TIFY AND QUANTIFY THESE CONSEQUENCES AND WORK OUT SOLUTIONS
TO PROBLEMS OF NON-STANDARDIZATION.

2. THE BRIEFING PRESENTED THE BENEFITS TO BE REALIZED FROM STANDARDIZATION WITHIN THE ACE MOBILE FORCE IN THE AREAS OF DEPLOYMENT, DETERRENT OPERATIONS AND FORCE DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS. POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE BRIEFING WERE:

- A. THE SEVEN COUNTRIES CONTRIBUTING TO THE AMF PROVIDE SEVEN DIFFERENT AIRLIFT AIRCRAFT.
- B. DISPARITY IN CARGO HANDLING EQUIPMENT IN AIRCRAFT IS A MAJOR PROBLEM.
- C. STANDARDIZATION OF AIRLIFT CAPACITY COULD REDUCE AMF DEPLOYMENT TIME BY HALF AND REQUIRE ABOUT HALF THE CURRENTLY REQUIRED AIRCRAFT.
- D. FREQUENCY ALLOCATION AND AVAILABLE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENTS SEVERELY LIMIT CAPABILITY TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY.
- E. LACK OF LOGISTICS STANDARDIZATION PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT INFANTRY WEAPONS, ARTILLERY, ANTI-TANK WEAPONS AND HELICOPTERS CAUSES SERIOUS REDUCTION IN AMF EFFECTIVENESS.
- F. MUTUAL SUPPORT OF AMF FORCES IN NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL DEFENSE IS HAMPERED BY NON-STANDARD DOSIMETERS, DECONTAMINANTS AND RADIAC EQUIPMENTS.

3. THE COUNCIL RESPONDED WITH COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS. SYG LUNS CHARACTERIZED THE PRESENTATION AS IMPRESSIVE AND DEPRESSIVE. BELGIAN (DE STAERCKE) AND ITALY (CATALANO) EXPRESSED CONCERN WHETHER THE AMF COULD FUNCTION AT ALL IN THE FACE OF SUCH PROBLEMS AS THOSE DISCUSSED IN THE BRIEFING. US (RUMSFELD) EXPRESSED MORE REALISTIC OPINION THAT POINT OF BRIEFING WAS NOT THAT AMF WAS A DISASTER, BUT THAT THE MESSAGE OF THE BRIEFING IS THAT THE AMF COULD BE MADE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE EFFECTIVE AT RELATIVELY LITTLE COST. HE COMMENDED DR TUCKER FOR HIS INITIATIVE IN BRINGING THE BRIEFING TO THE COUNCIL. HE ALSO STATED

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THAT MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE REQUIRING STANDARDIZATION DOWNSTREAM, AS PRESENT WEAPONS AND SYSTEMS AGE IS NECESSARY SOON. DENMARK (SVART) REAFFIRMED THE DEDICATION OF DENMARK TO STANDARDIZATION, BUT EXPLAINED, PARTICULARLY FOR SMALL COUNTRIES WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT ARMS INDUSTRY, THAT THE ELEMENT OF COMPETITION MUST BE PRESERVED. UK (PECK) RECOGNIZED THE COMPETITIVE ELEMENT AND CALLED ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL TO THE EUROGROUP INTENTION TO AGREE ON STANDARDIZATION OF FUTURE WEAPONS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. ASG(DS) (TUCKER) NOTED THAT STANDARDIZATION ON THE AMF WAS NOT IN ITSELF A VIABLE GOAL BECAUSE SUCH STANDARDIZATION WOULD IN EFFECT HAVE A DE-STANDARDIZING AFFECT ON NATIONAL FORCES OF THE SEVEN NATIONS INVOLVED.

HE ALSO NOTED THAT MANPOWER IS COSTING MORE AND HENCE IT
IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE REDUCTION IN MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS
WHICH MAY COME FROM STANDARDIZATION.

4. IN A BRIEF COMMENT THE COMMANDER AMF(GENERAL GROVEN) MADE
THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. AMF IS EFFECTIVE-BUT HAS LIMITATIONS.

B. IN EXERCISES AMF IS EFFECTIVE BECAUSE OF THE WILL AND
SUPPORT OF NATIONS.

C. NATIONS COULD HOPE TO GET MORE IN RETURN FROM AMF RESOURCES
THROUGH STANDARDIZATION.

D. STANDARDIZATION WILL NOT SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS-BUT WILL
HELP.

6. MISSION WILL POUCH TEXT, TO BE DISTRIBUTED JUNE 5 OR 6, OF
PRESENTATION TO WASHINGTON WHEN RECEIVED. SHAPE GAVE THIS SAME
PRESENTATION TO THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS DIRECTORS
(CNAD) ON APRIL 25, 1974 AND TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ON MAY
30, 1974.

RUMSFELD

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